

### Remarks

#### I. Introduction

It is respectfully requested that this Amendment After Final Rejection be entered and made of record. It is believed that the following amendments and remarks place the application in a form for allowance. The following amendments and remarks at least place the claims in a better form for appeal. No new matter is presented, as such the amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Claims 1-18 and 20-23 are presented for examination. Claims 12-13 and 23 have been amended.

#### II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 12-13 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

First, the Examiner states that claims 12 and 13 are indefinite because of the use of the term "0-0.6 parts by weight glutaric dialdehyde" or "0-0.4 parts by weight epichlorohydrin". The Examiner states that the terms render the claims indefinite on the basis that the claim does not conform to the limitation of the dependent claims 9 and 10, from which claims 12 and 13 depend, which cite the inclusion of a cross-linking agent. These claims have now been amended to state that the composite includes "up to 0.6 parts by weight glutaric dialdehyde" (claim 12) or "up to 0.4 parts by weight epichlorohydrin" (claim 13). It is therefore believed these claims can no longer be considered indefinite. Since these amendments are used only for clarification purposes, they are not narrowing.

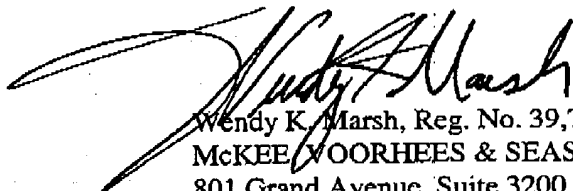
The Examiner next states that claims 23 is indefinite on the basis that it does not cite the amount of each component contained in the composite. Claim 23 has now been amended to recite that the composite includes up to 10 parts by weight of a compatibilizer, up to 0.6 parts by weight of a cross-linking agent, and up to 40% by weight of a plasticizer. Support for these amounts are found in the specification on p. 12, line 6 (compatibilizer), p. 15, Table 4 (cross-linking agent), and Figure 9. No new matter has been added. It is therefore respectfully submitted that this ground of rejection has been alleviated.

III. Conclusion

The Examiner notes that claims 1-11, 14-18, and 20-22 are free of art and allowable. In view of the amendments to claims 12-13 and 23, it is believed the application is in a prima facie condition for allowance. Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Respectfully submitted,



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